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ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN FINANCING ACT

Are You Required To
File?

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STATE OF ILLINOIS

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A GUIDE:

WHO IS REQUIRED TO FILE?

This brochure has been designed to help you easily determine if there is a need for you to comply with the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.

In September of 1974, the Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 78-1183, commonly referred to as the Campaign Financing Act. This act is designed to require candidates and political committees who receive or expend over \$1,000 to report these campaign contributions and expenditures.

The responsibility of administering this law lies with the State Board of Elections, or the appropriate county clerk.



I. WHO IS A CANDIDATE?

“Candidate” means any person who seeks nomination for election, or election, to public office, whether or not such person is elected. A person seeks nomination for election, or election, if he:

- (1) takes the action necessary under the laws of this state to attempt to qualify for nomination for election, or election, to public office; or
- (2) receives contributions or makes expenditures, or gives consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about his nomination for election, or election, to such office.

(See Sec. 9-1.3 of the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.)

II. WHAT IS A COMMITTEE?

Committees who must file generally fall into three categories.

(1) LOCAL Political Committee means:

(a) a candidate or committee which accepts or expends more than \$1, 000 in a 12-month period in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates for public office who are required to file their Statements of Economic Interest with the local county clerk; or

(b) a committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in support of, or in opposition to, a question of public policy that is to be submitted to the electors of an area encompassing no more than one county.

(See Section 9-1.7 of the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.)

(2) STATE Political Committee means:

(a) a candidate or committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates for public office who are required to file their Statements of Economic Interest with the Secretary of State; or

(b) a committee which accepts or expends more than \$3,000 in support of, or in opposition to, a question of public policy that is to be submitted to the electors of an area encompassing more than one county.

(See Section 9-1.8 of the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.)

(3) STATE and LOCAL Political Committee means:

(a) a committee which accepts or expends more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates for state and local public office who file their Statements of Economic Interest with the Secretary of State or the local county clerk, respectively.

III. WHO IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE?

- (1) A candidate for federal office.
- (2) A candidate for a party office; such as precinct committeeman, ward or township committeeman, delegate to the national nominating convention, Democrat and Republican county chairmen, state central committeemen, or any other candidate who is not required to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the local county clerk or the Secretary of State's office.
- (3) A candidate or a committee who will not accept or expend more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate or candidates.
- (4) A committee which does not accept or expend more than \$1,000 in support of, or in opposition to, a question of public policy that is submitted to the electors of an area encompassing no more than one county, or \$3,000 in the case of a question of public policy to be submitted to the electors of an area encompassing more than one county.

KEEP IN MIND

Even though you may not expect to accept or expend more than \$1,000 in a 12-month period, the State Board of Elections recommends that you keep accurate and detailed records of all contributions received and all expenditures made.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES must be counted towards the \$1,000 threshold.

(See Sections 9-1.4 and 9-1.5 of the Illinois Campaign Financing Act.)

For additional guidance, you should refer to the Rules and Regulations and Manual of Instructions issued by the State Board of Elections.

In addition, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the State Board of Elections, when necessary, by letter or telephone.



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THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The State Board of Elections has the responsibility to administer the Campaign Financing Act. The Board seeks good faith and voluntary compliance with the state campaign finance law. The State Board of Elections and the staff will try to provide any assistance necessary to help you to comply with the law.

GOALS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding of and participation in the electoral process. The Board hopes to obtain full voluntary compliance with the Campaign Financing Act by those seeking election to public office and by political committees and other persons supporting those candidates. The Board will, however, vigorously exercise its enforcement authority wherever there appears to be an apparent violation of the law.

For more information, complete guidelines, and rules and regulations as set forth by the Board, write or call the

State Board of Elections
1020 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois, 62704
Area Code 217/782-4141

or

100 North LaSalle St.
Chicago, Illinois 60602
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Issued by
The

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS